

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08989 031949Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 MC-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-11 SS-15 OTPE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 031937Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3113

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UK

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SPACE AGREEMENT

REF: BRUSSELS 4417

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED OUTCOME OF EUROPEAN SPACE COUNCIL'S JULY 31 MEETING (REFTEL) WITH MICHAEL BURTON, FCO. BURTON STRESSED TENUOUS NATURE OF PACKAGE AGREEMENT REACHED AT MEETING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHOLE ARRANGEMENT DEPENDS ON FULFILLMENT OF HOPE THAT ITALY, FOLLOWING BUDGET REVIEW, WILL COMMIT ITSELF FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF SPACE LAB PROGRAM AND LESSER AMOUNT ON L3S AND MAROTS. IF ITALY FAILS TO COME THROUGH ON SPACE LAB, HE SAID, ENTIRE PACKAGE OF SPACE LAB, MAROTS, L3S AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY LIKELY TO FALL APART.

2. BURTON CONFIRMED THAT UK DECISION TO UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT OF INERTIAL GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR USE ABOARD L3S WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN BREAKING IMPASSE THAT HAD THREATENED TO DEVELOP IN COUNCIL MEETING. HE SAID UK STILL OPPOSED TO L3S PROGRAM AND WOULD NOT BECOME A PARTY TO ESRO'S L3S PROJECT BUT TO BREAK IMPASSE HAD AGREED TO COMMIT 4.7 MILLION POUNDS TO A NATIONAL PROJECT OUTSIDE ESRO PROGRAM TO DEVELOP INERTIAL GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR LAUNCHER. AS A BALANCING FACTOR, FRENCH AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN MAROTS PROGRAM, WHICH UK WILL LEAD, IN APPROXIMATELY SAME AMOUNT AS BRITISH COMMITMENT TO INERTIAL GUIDANCE SYSTEM.

3. RESULTS OF EUROPEAN SPACE COUNCIL MEETING RECEIVED ONLY MODERATE AMOUNT OF PRESS COVERAGE IN UK. MINISTER OF AEROSPACE AND SHIPPING QUOTED AS SAYING SPACE MINISTERS A "WITHIN REACH OF ONE OF THE GREATEST EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS YET TO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED." EDITORIAL IN LONDON TIMES REFLECTS CONSIDERABLY MORE CAUTIOUS VIEW IN STATING "EUROPE'S FALTERING STEPS INTO SPACE CONTINUE TO FALTER" BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO GET A FIRM FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FROM ITALY.

SOHM

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